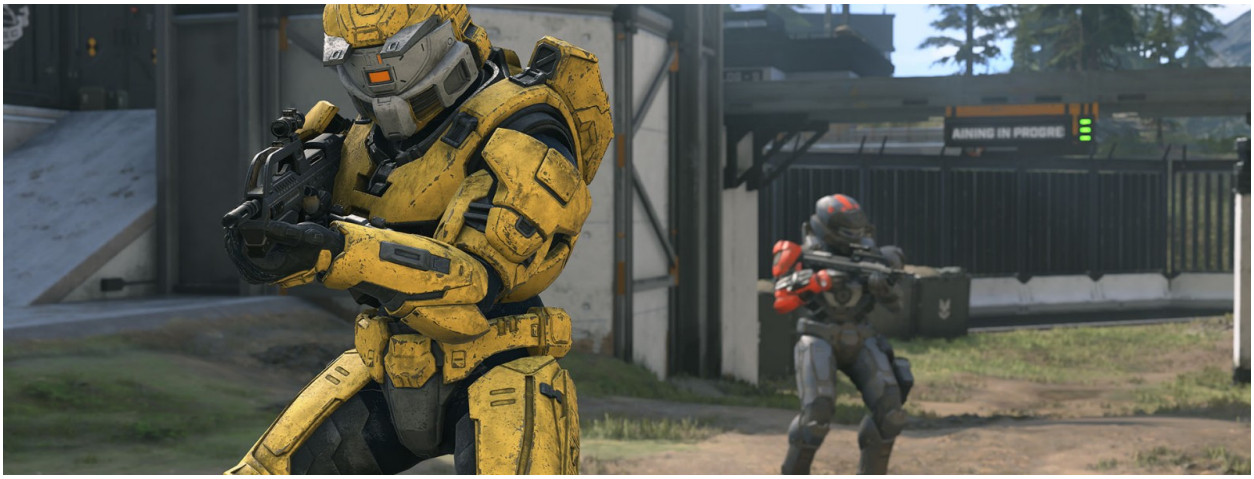

March Radness 2022 Wrap Up

Community NerdyBirdy Apr 1, 2022

After nearly a month of voting, the moment has finally come to celebrate the winners of this year's Xbox Ambassadors March Radness. We started with four brackets with sixteen games but as the weeks progressed and the voting finished, we're left with the winners of our four categories. We want to thank all the voters who participated this year and helped make March Radness one of the year's most popular events.

Best Artwork

When it comes to graphics, design, and art direction, this year had a clear winner. The winner of multiple gaming awards in 2021 can now add another notch to its belt, being the winner of Best Art Design at March Radness 2022.

Image: Playground Games

A technical masterpiece of gaming graphics, *Forza Horizon 5* runs with a locked 60 frames per second along with a native 4K resolution that shows off every inch of the game's glittering beaches, scenic volcanic mountains, and intricate cities. *Forza Horizon 5* used that incredible technical prowess in their win over Psychonauts 2 in the final round of voting.

Best Music Score

The winner of this year's Best Music at March Radness 2022 is the latest installment of a fan favorite. *Halo Infinite* received universal praise not only for its creativity, storytelling, and compelling gameplay, but also for its vivid musical score.

A team of industry musical titans collaborated to create the game's award-winning soundtrack. Gareth Coker of *Ori and the Blind Forest*, Joel Corelitz from *The Unfinished Swan*, and Curtis Schweitzer of *Starbound* helped create the nearly three-hour soundtrack over years of development. Locked in a battle with *Forza Horizon 5*, *Halo Infinite*'s superb score lifted them to victory in the musical finals.

Image: 343 Industries

Best Gameplay

Another battle between *Halo Infinite* and *Forza Horizon 5* took place in the finals of the Best Gameplay bracket. On this end, *Forza Horizon 5* rode their popularity to their second March Radness 2022 win with Best Gameplay.

In addition to its visual upgrades, *Forza Horizon 5* also revamped its gameplay to provide more freedom and autonomy to players as they traverse the game's incredible open world. Between the stunning detail provided to each car in the game's lineup, and the immersive surrounding environment, *Forza Horizon 5* is a gameplay masterpiece.

Best Storyline

There are few storylines as gripping and compelling as *The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim*. 2021's anniversary edition celebrated ten years of *Skyrim* with new quests, gear, and gameplay content. It also brought the same engaging storyline that hooked millions of gamers over a decade ago.

Set 200 years after *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*, in a world of dragons, elves, and men. *Skyrim* takes the player through an incredibly immersive open world environment with richly detailed character arcs and stories, and a carefully crafted world with its own unique cultures.

The voters rewarded Skyrim’s for its depth of plot and complex character development. The win broke through the dominance of *Halo Infinite* and *Forza Horizon 5* in the final rounds of the four brackets.

Image: Bethesda Game Studios

Honorable Mention:

While not a winner of any of the four main brackets, *The Outer Worlds* outperformed its expectations and made it to the final round of voting for Best Storyline. The indie classic from 2019 transports the player into an alternate future in which the solar system is ruled and controlled by megacorporations. Equal silly and serious, *The Outer Worlds* draws from sci-fi classics to tell an engaging story on the resilience of the human spirit, even in difficult and less than ideal circumstances.

We’d like to thank all those who participated and made March Radness 2022 possible this year. We hope to see you all next year!